

THE SHOOTERS ALLIANCE FOR FIREARMS RIGHTS  
MICHIGAN GUN OWNERS

STATEMENT OF POSITION REGARDING

HOUSE BILL 5470

The Shooters Alliance for Firearm Rights and Michigan Gun Owners, representing a combined membership of over one thousand hunters, sport shooters, gun collectors, firearms dealers, and otherwise law-abiding firearms owners throughout the state of Michigan, actively support House Bill 5470 and encourage the Legislature to pass it as is, and forward it to the Governor for her signature.

HB 5470, and HB 5472, which appears to be identical, seeks, by the addition of a single sentence to the concealed pistol statute, to clarify the status of members of the Armed Service of the United States who are assigned to a permanent duty station in the State of Michigan. One section of Michigan's firearms act, MCL 28.432a makes it clear that a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, including reservists and members of the national guard, are not considered "residents" of the State of Michigan, and are therefore not required (indeed, are not able) to obtain a purchase permit for, or to register their pistols, in the State of Michigan. On the other hand, the concealed pistol statute states that a member of the Armed Services of the United States, who is permanently assigned a duty station within the State of Michigan is considered a Michigan resident, even if their home of record is outside Michigan.

This inconsistency has resulted in a lack of clarity when it comes to whether out-of-state members of the Armed Forces assigned to Michigan duty stations: (1) must register their personally owned pistols when they come to Michigan; (2) may carry a concealed pistol pursuant to an out-of-state concealed pistol license, pursuant to Michigan's recognition of that state's CPL; or (3) is eligible to obtain a Michigan concealed pistol license.

HB 5470 would clarify that an out-of-state member of the Armed Forces of the United States would not be required to obtain a pistol purchase permit for, or register, any pistol or pistols that member brought into the State of Michigan. Further, if that out-of-state member of the Armed Forces possesses a concealed pistol license issued by his or her state of residence, it will be honored pursuant to Michigan's reciprocity statute. HB 5470 will also continue to allow out-of-state member of the Armed Forces assigned to permanent duty stations in Michigan to apply for and receive a Michigan CPL.

The remaining changes are technical and do not substantively change Michigan law.

SAFR and MGO request that this Committee vote to approve HB 5472, and forward it to the House for consideration and approval.